

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-14

RSC-01 FEA-02 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4135

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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PASS: AGRICULTURE FOR MEEKER AND HURT

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TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EGEN, AS, EEC

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA/UK SUGAR DISCUSSIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS; CANBERRA 5963

1. NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER PATTERSON DEPARTED

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CANBERRA SEPTEMBER 23 FOR LONDON TO ATTEMPT SALVAGE NEGOTIATIONS

TIATIONS FOR NEW SUGAR AGREEMENT WITH UNITED KINGDOM.
ALTHOUGH NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY UK, GOA
OFFICIALS FEAR EEC PLEDGE TO SAFEGUARD UK SUGAR SUPPLIES
AFTER TERMINATION CSA, EVEN BY PURCHASE ON WORLD MARKER
SHOULD THIS BE NECESSARY HAS MADE PROSPECTS FOR NEW
SUGAR AGREEMENT LESS PROMISING. NO DOUBT PATTERSON
WILL URGE UK TO MAINTAIN EARLIER STANCE AND INSIST
ON FIRM ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE SUGAR SUPPLY FROM 1975
ONWARD. PATTERSON WILL MEET WITH UK MINISTERS TO EXAMINE
IMPLICATIONS OF EEC PROPOSAL PRIOR TO UK CABINET
MEETING SEPTEMBER 26 AT WHICH SUGAR POLICY IS TO BE
DETERMINED.

2. GOA OFFICIALS STILL HOPEFUL UK WILL DECIDE TO
CONCLUDE AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA, AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN
SOME ENCOURAGEMENT BY MINISTER PEART STATEMENT THAT
HMG IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT ON UK REFINING
INDUSTRY, AND HIS GOVERNMENT IN NO WAY COMMITTED TO
EEC PROPOSAL AT THIS STAGE. OTHER FACTOR WILL BE
OBVIOUS RELUCTANCE OF LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO
SUPPLY THE 1.4 MILLION TONS AT EEC THRESHOLD PRICE
UNDER PRESENT MARKET CONDITIONS. GOA OFFICIALS POINT
TO RECENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUYANA TO SECURE 136,000
TONS OF RAWS AS EXAMPLE OF DOUBTFUL RELIABILITY OF THESE
SUPPLIERS IN NEAR FUTURE AT LOWER THAN WORLD MARKET
PRICES.
BREEN

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